

**MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, August 14, 2012 – 7:30 a.m. – Room 450 Capitol Building

Members Present:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble, Senate Chair
Rep. John Dougall, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Mr. Jonathan Ball
Mr. Ric Cantrell
Mr. Michael E. Christensen
Mr. Joe Pyrah

Excused Members:

Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Mr. John M. Schaff

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark J Allred, IT Manager
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Samantha Coombs, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Bramble called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Rep. Menlove was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Pyrah moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Communications/Phone System

Mr. Vaughn reported to the committee on the responses received for the Request For Proposals (RFPs), issued under the direction of the Legislative Management Committee, concerning the desk phone system. He recommended the committee consider whether or not to continue with the existing communications system or select a new VoIP system, and if a new system is selected, determine if the system should be hosted or non-hosted.

Ms. Chris Calcut, IT staff, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, Mr. Kirk M. Broadhead, LAN Administrator, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and Mr. Greg Johnson, Senate staff, expressed their concerns with the existing communications system and provided input regarding a hosted versus a non-hosted system.

The committee considered the pros and cons of maintaining the existing phone system, acquiring a new phone system, a hosted versus a non-hosted system, and a cell-phone-only solution.

Mr. Christensen explained that it is primarily a cost of time versus a monetary cost for staff to maintain and troubleshoot the phone system, regardless of whether the system is hosted or non-hosted.

Chair Bramble suggested that there should be a discussion about the ideal configuration and functionality of the phone system before the committee decided on a hosted or non-hosted system. Items to be considered included whether or not fully functional phones should be in the chambers, if there should be a phone in every legislator's office, and if the legislators should be the ones to decide if they would like to have a desk phone or not.

Mr. David Gibson, Leg IT Auditor/System Analyst, Legislative Auditor General's office, expressed his concern regarding a cell-phone-only solution. He explained that often it is difficult to hear on a cell phone, and in these cases a desk phone would be preferred.

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved to direct staff to survey the legislators to determine the number of phones needed and refine the costs of the phone systems, based on these responses. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Cell Phones

Mr. Vaughn explained the cell phone plan and options currently available to the legislators and staff. He explained the responses received to the RFP, issued under the direction of the Legislative Management Committee, seeking a provider who could provide the best coverage.

The committee reviewed the options presented by staff and discussed the coverage issues that affect both legislators and staff.

MOTION: Mr. Cantrell moved to continue the existing T-Mobile contract with an option for legislators to contract with Verizon, an option for staff to contract with Verizon subject to prior approval by their director, and the option of receiving reimbursement if neither carrier works. Further, he directed staff to survey each legislator so the contracts can be negotiated. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Dougall was absent for the vote.

4. Introduction to Interactive Agendas

Mr. Merrill Hansen, icount.com, briefly explained the purpose and functionality of Interactive Agenda. He expressed icount.com's interest that the Legislature would consider experimenting with Interactive Agenda during the upcoming interim committee meetings and possibly implementing Interactive Agenda during the legislative session.

Sen. Bramble asked if Interactive Agenda could vet the comments received so that the most relevant comments could receive greater weight than out-of-area comments.

Ms. Melanie Briggs, West Jordan City Recorder, explained how West Jordan City has used Interactive Agenda as a way to interact with their constituents before and during public meetings. She also expressed the benefits of receiving out-of-area comments.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Bramble expressed concerns about the functionality of the tools used for meetings.

MOTION: Rep. Arent moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bramble adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.